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DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/MLGA (LJORDAN) AND IO/RHS (RLEATHAM AND AOSTERMEIER).

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA: UNHRC FIFTH SESSION

REF: STATE 91929

¶1. (SBU) On July 5, EconPolOff delivered reftel demarche regarding the HRC fifth session to Engelbert Theuermann, Director of the MFA's Human Rights Division. Theuermann said that the GoA was disappointed with the number of unsatisfactory outcomes. He cited the expiration of the country-specific special rapporteur mandates on Belarus and Cuba, as well as the creation of a permanent agenda item on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) as particularly negative.

¶2. (SBU) Despite these negative outcomes, Theuermann opined that a number of positive developments resulted from this session. He defended the EU's positions in the HRC session, maintaining the negotiating environment had been difficult. The EU was out-voted, as the African, Asian, and Latin American members voted as a bloc. Therefore, in Theuermann's view, it had been necessary to compromise on certain issues. Theuermann suggested that this voting imbalance would improve, if the USG played a more active role in the HRC.

McCaw